A Ham's Silent Key Guide

Dino Papas KLØS For the Raleigh ARC July 11, 2023

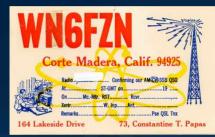






George Ulm W9EVT (SK) December 2022







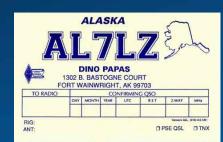




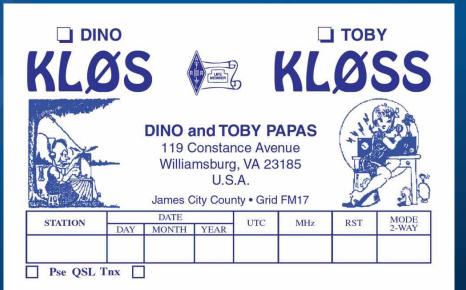


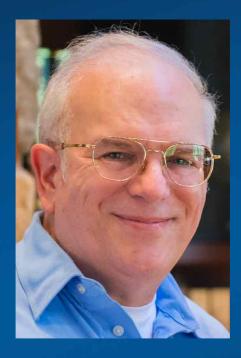
Who am I?













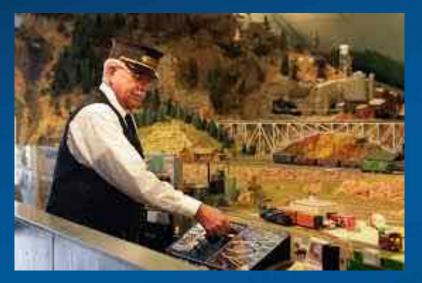
Hobbyists Collect Stuff!



Philatelists



Numismatists



Model Train Enthusiasts



Pannapictagraphists

Hams Also Collect Stuff!





K8NB QST Article (April 2018)

The Inventory List



Inventory tag number 14:

This 1943 Vibroplex Lightning Bug, serial number 125445, is complete and operational.

It has had some parts replaced with original Vibroplex parts.

This bug would sell for around \$100 in 2017.

Noel Beardsley, K8NB

At some point, each of us will become a Silent Key, and someone will have to deal with our collection of possessions, including our Amateur Radio equipment. Whoever has to sort through and dispose of our equipment may have very little knowledge of what the equipment is, and what it is worth. Personally, I would like to make things as easy for my family as possible after I pass away. I would also like to ensure they get fair value for all of my gear.

Put Together an Inventory

I suggest that you put together a complete inventory of your equipment, with the corresponding current market value for each piece. Though there are many cataloging systems to employ, I decided to use a single page for each item of equipment. I typed pages on my

KLØS QST Article (Sep 2019)

Silent Key Estate Planning — A Guide

A ham who has assisted with several Silent Key estates offers advice for helping your family — or the families of your ham friends — figure out what to do with a loved one's gear.

Dino Papas, KLØS

Each of us will inevitably become a Silent Key someday, and unfortunately that day may arrive unexpectedly. We need to prepare ahead of time to make it as simple as possible for our families, the majority of whom are probably not hams, to know what to do with our equipment.

Many of us take the time to ensure that our wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and advanced medical directives are current, but few of us pay attention to what will happen to our radio-related belongings. Families who don't know what these specialty items are worth may turn to a one-time estate purchaser who removes the burden of a lengthy disposal process — at least one such estate buyer advertises in the back of *QST*.

Some families may want to memorialize their departed ham by donating the ham's equipment, technical library, QSL cards, and other items to worthy hams or ham organizations. Local Amateur Radio clubs may also offer a service to dispose of a deceased ham's possessions (if not, talk to your club's leadership about organizing such a program).

Hams who have prearranged the disposition of their equipment stand the best chance of making sure their wishes are fulfilled — and that their family recoups a realistic amount from the sale of the items.



An inside view of Ron Pollack's, K2RP, Lysco Model 600 transmitter prior to restoration This classic radio would be difficult to value, especially for a non-ham, as it has a unique history and has been modified Including this as an item on an inventory list would be a great help to your loved ones, with details about its functionality, history, part replacements, and estimated value. [Ron Pollack, K2RP, photo]

Planning Ahead: Tips for Hams

✓ Have a current will (or a trust, if appropriate) and an advanced medical directive in place.

✓ Tell your family how to report your passing to ARRL for inclusion in QST's Silent Keys listing.

✓ Direct your family to the FCC's website (https://www.fcc.gov/ wireless/support/universallicensing-system-uls-resources/ cancelling-license-universallicensing) for information on how to cancel your Amateur Radio license or how a family member can initiate a request to be assigned your call.

Create a file or binder that includes your important ham radiorelated documents. Keep it in an accessible place that your family and a ham representative know about.

Consider drafting your own obituary and including information about the ham radio part of your life.

Designating a Representative

Because family members may not know our ham friends, it's a good idea to designate a willing and able ham friend to act as your ham estate representative. Being active in your local Amateur Radio club can offer a source of hams who may be willing to assist your family. Once you've chosen a representative and they have agreed, you can host a joint meeting with them and your family's decision makers to ensure the ham part of your estate will be handled the way you want.

Donation Options

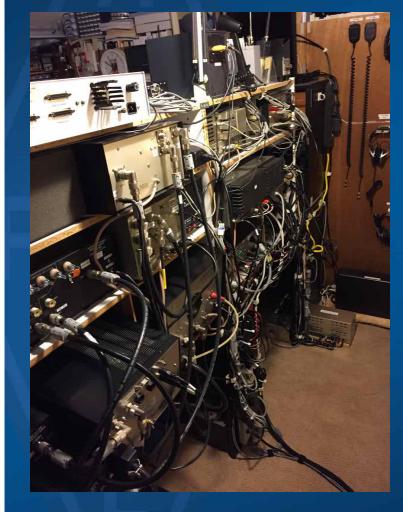
If you want to donate equipment directly to other ham family members, friends, or your club, then you should make those wishes known

Ok, I like things organized...

Obsessive-compulsive disorder

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia







Some first thoughts

- We all have an expiration date...
- Prepare ahead of time
- Do you have a will?
- Do you have a living trust?
- Do you have powers of attorney?
- Do you have a medical directive?
- Front-door medical binder?
- Do you have someone identified to help your family with your ham radio estate?



Make a Plan

- Everyone's situation is different
- Have a plan to dispose of your hobby stuff
- Maximize return or be generous
- Choose a friend
- Have a meeting
- Document your plan!
- Club member assistance
- Club formal/semi-formal committee
- Your obituary???

Club Membership



Pre-Disposal

- Calculus of time
- Donate?
- Sell?
- Auction?
- Hamfests?
- For sale lists?
- Plan and act ahead of time?

Estate Buyers and Equipment Sellers





Ham Radio Estate Auctions KØIP 100% Positive feedback 4.2K Sold 69 Followers

🖞 Share 🖾 Contact 🛇 Save Seller







Ease your family's burden when you become an SK



SK Reporting

- Non-ham notifications
- FCC cancel license OR transfer callsign
- ARRL QST Silent Key Column
- QRZ.com
- QSL Bureau(s)
- Hobby email reflectors
- Other ham group relationships

Other Issues

- Account access
- Passwords & Security Questions
- 2-Factor authorizations
- Computer code author?
- DXpedition logs
- Club or MARS Equipment
- ARRL Estate Planning Workbook

QSL Card Collections?

QSL CARDS FROM THE PAST

W8JYZ

Bv:

The legacy of "Old Time" Ham Radio Operators can be found in the QSL Cards they left behind. This Website is dedicated to those Old Time Radio Operators.

I have a Collection of Old (US and Canadian) Ham Radio QSL Cards dating from the early 1920s.

A complete list of Old QSL Cards now totaling more than 56 THOUSAND can be accessed by clicking on the <u>Master File Database Link</u> below. Over 22 Hundred Online Scans of Old QSL Cards are also available by clicking on the required Scan Link.

I now have over 5000 NOVICE cards listed in the database. Improvements and updates will continue to be made, as the Collection grows and I learn more about this WEB PAGE DESIGN "stuff", so check back often.

Helping the Family

- Are you willing to help?
- Periods of grief vary
- Ask how you can help

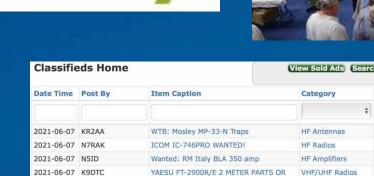


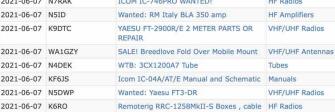
- Involve yourself <u>only</u> with the ham radio estate
- Ensure they know it will take time
- Family may not be hams & not know worth
- What is salvageable?
- Decide how to proceed

Helping the Family

eba

- Donate?
- Sell?
- Auction?
- Equipment testing
- Hamfests?
- For sale lists





- Keep good records of your work
- Provide proceeds to family quickly



\$

Memento Collection for the Family

- Gather a few small things: -- call sign badge -- ham related pictures -- newspaper articles
- Collect it all and present thoughtfully at an appropriate time

KLØSS

TOBY

WILLIAMSBURG AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Coffee and Radio: A Pandemic-Inspired Net

Dino Papas, KLØS Many clubs have found innovative ways to stay in touch during the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020 the Williamsburg Area

the Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club (WAARC) in Williamsburg Virginia, started a Coffee and Radio Net, which meets daily at 9 AM on or local 2-meter repeater. Ou goal was to help our mem ers maintain contact an share information about local conditions regarding the virus. Now, after more han a year, many benefit have arisen from this dail

The Williamsburg Area Amateur Radio Club has kept members engaged for an entire year while keeping members safe





our favorite desserts and music We also have len-mic sessions and low members to share what they're up to, ha adio-related or otherwis Although I head the ajority of the WAARC ets, other members ha olunteer to do the NCS duties on the weekends This is a great benefit to the volunteers. This is ning a directed net, whic gives them practice for perating in an emer-

ur vards or discussing

group of regulars, mostly rom our retired ham com

munity. However, over the nuinity nowever, over the course of the past year, it has had more than 200 unique call sign check-ins from local club members, surrounding communities, and visitors to our area — well beyond the club's population of around 150 members. As the organizer and Chief Net Control Station (NCS). Eve kent track of net rosters and tooics dismost of those days, regularly recordin ounts of over 40 members. We also for ning apps such as hat our members use online adcastify (www.broadcastify.com). This allows them to continue listening to the net when they're away from their radios or traveling out of the area, ofter checking in via text to let us know they're still with the

Net Benefits

We usually engage in a topic or question of the day, ranging from technical radio topics to battling vermin nical radio topics to battling vermin

hams who might not have had an opportunity to interact previously have been able to establish both amateur radio relationship and personal friendships as a result of the net

A New Way to Gather

Of course, we've missed getting together in person but teleconferencing platforms like Zoom help us with monthly meeting attendance. In fact, attendance has averaged well past the numbers historically seen who we were able to meet in person. The breakout room unction on Zoom allows for smaller groups to gather During our "Virtual Builders Group," we discuss mutual rojects and interests while rema ining in the same ar virtual space (see the sidebar, "A Vir ters Group," for more information).

Over the last few years, our club has focused on or est hams, and we continue to support them (as ell as our more experienced hams) with special nterest groups that meet on Zoom. For those comfo



Are you prepared?



When will you become a Silent Key?

Have you made it as easy as possible for your family?

Time to get ready is now...

73 and GL de KLØS! (kl0s@arrl.net) "I have a soldering iron and I'm not afraid to use it!"



